



City of Alexandria

Transportation Commission

Regular Meeting

October 5, 2011

7:30 p.m.

City Council Workroom

MINUTES

Commissioners Present: Kevin Posey, Donna Fossum, Jesse Jennings, Councilman Krupicka, Jennifer Mitchell, Philip Voorhees, Louisa Ward and Justin Wilson

Staff Present: Chris Beaver – OMB, Bernard Caton, City Legislative Director, Abi Lerner -T&ES, Sandra Marks - T&ES, Jim Maslanka - T&ES, Brad Putzier - DASH, Steve Sindiong - T&ES, Danielle Parker – T&ES, Jeff Farner – P&Z, Steve Kaii-Ziegler - P&Z

A quorum being present, the Chair called the Transportation Commission meeting to order at 7:36pm.

1. September 7, 2011 Minutes

Chair Posey asked if there were any comments, additions or corrections to be made to the September minutes. Commissioner Wilson recommended approval of the September minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Voorhees, voted on and unanimously approved.

2. Funding Update

T&ES staff, Abi Lerner reported City Council adopted the High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group (CWG) recommendation for Corridor C and adopted allocation plan for Congestion Mitigation Air Quality / Regional Surface Transportation Program (CMAQ/RSTP) funds; Commonwealth Transportation Board set fall meetings to hear testimony on 6-Year Plan (Current, and FY2013-18 Plan); the Transportation Planning Board was informed of continuing efforts to reform WMATA's governance and they received information on the DC Office of Planning's study that focused on housing affordability related to transportation costs; WMATA's Board approved public hearings on proposals to change WMATA services in cost-neutral fashion. Two proposed services include mid-day services from Bradlee Center to Parkfairfax and extension of Route 28x to Mark Center. The allocation plan for FY2013-18 CMAQ/RSTP funds was sent to NVT. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) will initiate a study of current and projected commuter patterns in the northern part of Virginia to plan transit and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) enhancements needed to keep Northern Virginia moving. This scope for the study, also called the "Super NoVa" is being prepared. Alexandria will be a stakeholder, and the City will work with DRPT after the scope is completed. Bernard

Caton, Legislative Director for the City, gave an update on the 2012 Legislative Proposal to the General Assembly as it relates to transportation issues.

3. FY 2013 CIP Proposal (Public Hearing)

Item 3 was a public hearing for Transportation Commissioners to vote on and recommend to City Council, a proposal for transportation funding for the City's FY 2013 Capital Improvement Program. Sandra Marks, T&ES staff, gave a timeline on the selection of projects to be funded beginning with the subcommittee's prioritization to the final adoption as part of the City's budget that will occur May 2012. She also elaborated on the projects selected and their allocations. After Commission discussions, a motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to defer this item until the next meeting in order to receive additional information.

4. Beauregard Transportation

Steve Sindiong, reported that an ad hoc citizen's stakeholder group, Beauregard Corridor Stakeholder Group (BCSG), was formed to lead the planning process on this initiative. The BCSG and City staff have been coordinating with the Beauregard Developers Group and held a number of public meetings. He indicated that the Beauregard initiative has been coordinated with the Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study, specifically related to Corridor C (Van Dorn/Beauregard) and the BRAC-133 development. An update on the traffic analysis was presented. Councilman Krupicka noted that there is value in holding some future Transportation Commission meetings in the West End, related to transportation issues in that part of the City.

5. Highway Safety Improvement Program

Abi Lerner reported that the City received a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant. HSIP is a federal aid program designed to achieve a significant reduction in traffic fatalities and injuries on public roads through highway safety improvements. Improvements will take place along Duke Street at Walker, Ripley, Reynolds and Paxton Streets. Construction will begin in spring 2012.

6. BRAC-133

Abi Lerner provided an update on transportation improvements that are being evaluated and/or are moving into various stages of implementation. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) 30-day public hearing period begins December 15, 2011. Requests and submittals for qualifications, proposals, and a complete National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) document are the next steps for the short and mid-term road improvements. VDOT has established a Task Force which is monitoring construction, operations, communications, transit/TDM and traffic conditions at I-395 & Seminary Road using photographs, traffic counts and field assessments. The enhanced DASH and WMATA transit service has been successful. There has not been a need for Gridlock Reduction Intervention Program (GRIP) traffic control but Alexandria Police Department will closely monitor the situation. Chair Posey noted that future HOT lanes may have an impact on additional vehicles using Alexandria streets.

7. Staff Updates

Transitway Corridor Feasibility Study – The Transportation Commission, the Planning Commission and City Council accepted the High Capacity Transit Corridor Work Group's

recommendation for Corridor C (Van Dorn/Beauregard). Per the Transportation Commission's recommendation and motion, Council added two stipulations. Namely, that the transit way be optimized to better serve Northern Virginia Community College and that the Transportation Commission be tasked to identify the decision criteria, evaluate and monitor the transition from Alternative D to Alternative G and periodically report the progress to City Council.

Potomac Yard Metro Station – The next meeting of the Potomac Yard Metrorail Implementation Work Group is scheduled for October 26, 2011 from 6:30-8:30 pm in the City Council workroom. The preliminary alternatives will be evaluated against the project goals and objectives.

Crystal City Potomac Yard Transitway – The City received a grant for the Crystal City/Potomac Yard Transitway totaling \$8.5 million. \$990,000 was also received from the Department of Transportation. City Council gave formal approval for the construction in April 2011. The selection of a consultant is underway. A design build firm will be selected and under contract by fall of 2011 when construction begins.

8. Commission Updates

Commissioner Wilson recommended that the Transportation Commission write a letter of support for the City joining the Capital Bikeshare program. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Voorhees, voted on and unanimously approved.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made at 8:47 p.m. seconded and unanimously accepted.